

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 06655 131154Z  
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T RABAT 6655

EXDIS

FOR S/S AND NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR MO  
SUBJECT: KING HASSAN'S INTEREST IN DIALOGUE WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION

1. SUMMARY. KING HASSAN HAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED ALL PHASES OF OUR ELECTIONS AND TRANSITION PERIOD AND CLEARLY LOOKS FORWARD TO FORMING AN EVEN CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. BOTH PUBLICLY AND IN CONVERSATION WITH ME, THE KING HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF VISITING THE US SOON AFTER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS IN PLACE. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A USEFUL VISIT BY A VALUABLE FRIEND OF THE US. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH NO FOREWARNING KING HASSAN ASKED ME TO REMAIN BEHIND FOR A TWENTY-MINUTE PRIVATE TALK AFTER HIS FIFTEEN-MINUTE NUCLEAR ENERGY DEMARCHE ON DECEMBER 8 TO THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL (RABAT 6610). IN SEPARATE TELEGRAMS I HAVE REPORTED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MY TOUR D'HORIZON WITH HASSAN. WHILE AT THIS POINT THESE REPORTS ARE PERHAPS PRIMARILY OF BACKGROUND INTEREST TO THOSE INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE, I WISH TO PUT ON RECORD IN THIS TELEGRAM HASSAN'S KEEN INTEREST IN OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE INCOMING NEW TEAM AND IN VISITING PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. HIMSELF DEEPLY ENGAGED IN RESTORING CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT TO MOROCCO THROUGH A SERIES OF ELECTIONS, HASSAN HAS BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE SMOOTH FUNCTION OF US-STYLE

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GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH HE HAS CHIDED US FOR THE SHORT TERMS

OUR CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE PRESIDENT AND FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN, ELECTIONS, AND INTO THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE, THE KING HAS FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS AND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES IN GREAT DETAIL. INDEED HE HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORAL CYCLE FOR SOME TIME. HE TOLD SENATOR PERCY AND ME IN JULY (RABAT 3703) THAT HE WANTED TO VISIT THE US FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, REMARKING THAT THAT WOULD BE THE BEST TIME TO "RENEW A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE" BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

4. HASSAN ASKED ME FOR A FULL BACKGROUND OF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF GOVERNOR HARRIMAN, WHOM HE FIRST MET AT THE CASABLANCA CONFERENCE IN 1943 AND CONTINUES TO ADMIRE. HE ALSO BROUGHT UP HIS HOPE THAT HIS OUTSTANDING INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED BY OUR LAST TWO PRESIDENTS, WOULD BE RENEWED, AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING OUR NEW PRESIDENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (HE HAD MENTIONED "NEXT YEAR" FOR A VISIT DURING HIS NOV. 21 PRESS CONFERENCE--RABAT 6306--JUST PRIOR TO HIS RECENTLY HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT TO FRANCE.) FINALLY, THE KING TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE WRITING PRESIDENT CARTER AFTER JANUARY 20 ON HIS NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS INITIATIVE, AND HIS DESIRE FOR A DIALOGUE ON MOROCCO'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM.

5. NOW EVERY BIT AS MUCH A WORKING KING AS HE WAS ONCE A PLAYBOY, HASSAN WOULD HAVE MUCH OF SUBSTANCE TO DISCUSS DURING A VISIT, E.G. THE FUTURE OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOROCCO, INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION, HIS PLANS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, MOROCCO'S CONCERN OVER SOVIET PENETRATION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, DESIRE FOR A STRENGTHENED U.S. LEADERSHIP OF THE WEST OF WHICH HE CONSIDERS MOROCCO AN INTEGRAL PART. IN BOTH ITS

VOCATION AS AN ARAB COUNTRY AND A THIRD-WORLD AFRICAN COUNTRY, MOROCCO HAS BEEN A FREQUENTLY MODERATING INFLUENCE IN SUCH AREAS AS ON MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS AND THE KOREAN QUESTION. CLEARLY, TO MY MIND, HE DESERVES OUR CONTINUING, CLOSE CULTIVATION. I BELIEVE HIS DESIRE FOR AN EARLY  
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VISIT SHOULD BE WELCOMED.  
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